

To All,

Several weeks ago I sent out an example of some suggested procedures on how to respond to a bomb threat. I have now enclosed some current real incidents that may be helpful in possibly helping write those procedures in responding to a bomb threat, etc.

Always be concerned of collocated offices with other agencies such as Court Houses. Your office may not be the target, but just for the mere fact that your office is collocated with maybe a high threat target such as a Court House or Federal Building, etc., the USDA office could be under just as much threat as the targeted agency. Therefore, ensure your plans and procedures are incorporated with the other tenants in the building. A lot of times this is done through the Building Security Committee of the facility.

If you could look at the below incidents and see what was done procedurally in response to the threats described and look at the agencies that got involved, and how they responded, it could possibly help your offices write the needed procedures. Also, look at the motives behind these illegal acts and locations to better understand your agency's unique environment.

1. Chiron, Pipe Bombed, Granted Court Order Against Animal Activists

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Chiron Corp. on Friday backed off on its attempt to restrict the activities of Bay Area animal- rights activists, citing a ruling by a New Jersey judge that imposes many of the same restrictions the Emeryville, Calif., Biotech Company had sought in Alameda County Superior Court.

Activists, meanwhile, cried foul over the ruling in Camden County, New Jersey, claiming Chiron provided them with little notice of their lawsuit there. Activists also say Chiron obtained a temporary restraining order without anyone in court to represent the animal rights group targeted by the company.

"This is typical," said Christine Garcia, a lawyer representing the group Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty. "They hire big guns all over the country. When they don't get what they want in one court, they find a judge somewhere else who will give them what they want with no notice, no opposition."

Chiron sued the U.S. arm of SHAC in Alameda County last month, asserting that the animal rights group was orchestrating a harassment campaign against its employees and may have had ties to activists who detonated two pipe bombs outside Chiron's offices last August.

But the biotech company was rebuffed in its quest for a restraining order by a judge in Oakland, who expressed doubts about the urgency of Chiron's case.

SHAC-USA representatives said the legal action in New Jersey amounted to a cynical legal end-run, given that Alameda County Superior Court Judge Steven Brick denied the same request two weeks ago at a hearing where a legal representative of SHAC-USA was present.

While the New Jersey ruling doesn't directly affect Bay Area protest activities, it does restrict postings on the SHAC-USA Web site - postings targeted in the Alameda County lawsuit, as well.

The New Jersey court order prompted Chiron on Friday to call off a hearing in Oakland this week at which the company was to request a preliminary injunction against SHAC-USA. Chiron officials said they would pursue a court order against SHAC-USA in Oakland in the coming months.

SHAC-USA representatives say ties cited by Chiron linking the group to Bay Area protests, and the August bombings, are imagined. Group representatives say SHAC-USA doesn't participate in protests, but merely runs a Web site and newsletter to allow activists to share information about activities targeting Huntingdon Life Sciences, a British laboratory that uses animals in the testing of consumer products.

Chiron has been targeted by animal rights activists because it has contracted with HLS to perform mandated animal tests on its vaccines and disease-screening technologies.

In January, activists targeted the Cherry Hill, N.J., home of Chiron CEO Howard Pien, reportedly mounting a large television in the bed of a pickup truck and projecting images of "animals being mutilated" for Pien's neighbors to see.

2. Suspicious Powder Sent to Michigan Judge Forces Courthouse Evacuation

The Livingston County courthouse in Howell has reopened after a suspicious powder forced an evacuation.

The pinkish-white powder was contained in a letter addressed to a Livingston County judge, Local 4 reported.

The substance arrived in a tightly sealed envelope. An assistant to A. John Pikkarainen opened the letter around 2 p.m. Tuesday.

The substance has been taken to a Michigan State Police crime lab in Lansing for analysis.

Pikkarainen, two workers and a postal worker were taken to a hospital as a precaution. None of them complained of any symptoms.

The health department was reportedly going through the building to determine if it was safe.

Investigators from the FBI, Livingston County and the U.S. Postal Service are teaming up to find whoever is responsible for sending the package to the judge with a claim that it contained anthrax.

Preliminary tests showed the white powder in a package mailed to the Livingston County Judicial Center in Howell on Tuesday was sugar. Investigators sent it to a state laboratory in Lansing for an official analysis, which could be ready later today, FBI Senior Agent Greg Stejskal said. The FBI is involved because sending a threat through the mail is a federal offense, he said.

The person responsible could be charged with terrorism, a felony punishable by up to life in prison, said Livingston County Undersheriff Bob Bezotte.

3. Federal Building and Post Office in Vermont Evacuated for Bomb/Anthrax Threat

ST. JOHNSBURY, VERMONT--Three threatening letters received at the St. Johnsbury post office Tuesday morning prompted the postmaster to evacuate the federal building on Main Street.

Police said William Erno, 25, an inmate at the Northern State Correctional Facility in Newport, sent a written bomb threat to Postmaster Armand Veilleux, and written anthrax threats to the Caledonia Courthouse and the state's attorney's office, which is located in the federal building.

St. Johnsbury Police said Veilleux opened Erno's letter at 7:30 a.m. The letter allegedly stated Erno had arranged for a bomb to go off at the post office on Main Street at 9 a.m. Veilleux ordered the federal building closed for a short while, starting at about 8:45 a.m.

In such cases, the postmaster must order an evacuation of the building, according to St. Johnsbury Detective Dean Mathers.

Local police went through the inside and around the outside of the building looking for any suspicious entry or item, but didn't find anything. A detective from the state police bomb squad at the St. Johnsbury barracks also participated in the investigation.

"It's standard procedure," Leighton said.

The threatening letters sent to the state's attorney's office and the Caledonia County Courthouse arrived between 7:30-9 a.m.; they included pieces of tape with no sign of anthrax, Mathers said.

The Caledonia County Sheriff's Department took possession of the letter sent to the courthouse, Mathers said.

Sgt. Tom Roberts, a detective out of the state police barracks in Derby, questioned Erno Tuesday morning, at the Northern State Correctional Facility, at the request of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which was working with the St. Johnsbury Police Department on the case.

Erno allegedly admitted to sending the bomb threat letter, and said he was the only one involved in what he admitted was a hoax. When asked about the anthrax letters, however, Erno wouldn't come out and say he sent them, but said that it was probable, a press release said.

Erno was recently sent to the Newport prison from the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility in St. Johnsbury, Mathers said. All of the letters were written and signed by Erno, and had been mailed from the Newport prison.

Mathers and Leighton said they were surprised the Northern State Correctional Facility doesn't check outgoing letters.

Erno was sentenced to 4 to 8 years after he was convicted in September of arson and burning to defraud.

4. Suspicious Powder Delivered to Illinois Bank

CHICAGO -Police say a letter containing a "suspicious bluish powder" was delivered yesterday to a bank branch in Frankfort, about 35 miles south of Chicago.

Hazardous materials teams arrived at the TCF Bank shortly after threatening letters and strange substances closed other offices in Chicago's western suburbs of Brookfield and Lyons.

A series of letters containing white powder prompted government offices in Brookfield and Lyons to close. Officials say initial tests indicate the powder is not hazardous.

U.S. Postal Inspection Service spokesman Paul Krenn says the incident looks like a hoax.

Officials say the powder in Frankfort has been turned over to the FBI for analysis.

5. Police Seek Mailbox Bomber in California

PALM SPRINGS - The devices may have been set off as jokes, but police are trying to find out who detonated a series of acid-bombs that damaged three mailboxes in the same neighborhood, officials said.

No one has been hurt. "We have no leads yet, but generally these things are done by juveniles and are called pranks," said Palm Springs Police spokesman Sgt. Dennis Graham. "But this is a felony."

The suspects could also be charged with a federal crime for vandalizing a mailbox, or injuring, defacing or destroying any mail inside, according to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service Web site. It stated that violators could be fined up to \$250,000 or imprisoned for up to three years for each act of vandalism.

The first took place in mid-February, Graham said, and the second several weeks later. The latest occurred March 11 in the 3500 block of Andreas Hills Drive, he said. Police, the Fire Department and U.S. Postal Service inspectors responded to the scene of the last explosion and found the remnants of what investigators describe as a "pressure bomb," he said.

Firefighters neutralized the area with bicarbonate of soda and called the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health to collect evidence, he said.

The mailbox was damaged and several pieces of the resident's mail were destroyed, Graham said.

The explosives were made with muriatic acid, also known as hydrochloric acid, a chemical used to clean pools, Graham said.

6. New Mexico Bomb Squad Investigates Suspicious Package in FedEx Drop-off

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. -- The Dona Ana County bomb squad continues to search a suspicious package for explosives.

The item was left in a FedEx mailing bin outside the downtown post office Friday.

The package was a coffee can with a note attached reading "death to those who open."

The man who allegedly left the package is described as a white male, 20 to 35 years old, with a medium to muscular build, a light-colored beard, and light brown hair.

7. Anthrax Scare in Mail at UK Mosque

Police told a Midland mosque leader to 'take a long shower' after he found himself at the centre of an anthrax scare.

Officers wearing protective suits eventually arrived at Tipton's Wellington Road mosque, where the so-called Tipton Taliban used to worship, more than TWO HOURS after the alarm was raised.

A mystery white powder was taken away for further forensic analysis and no-one was harmed.

But a spokesman for the mosque last night criticized police for failing to take the scare seriously.

Mansoor Tariq said he was terrified when he opened a letter last week and a white powder blew into his face.

"It scared me even more when I read the letter and it said it contained anthrax," he added.

"I immediately called the police and an officer said it was unlikely that it really was anthrax.

"He advised me and the imam, who had also touched the letter, to take a long shower and that help was on the way."

The two-page typed letter also contained anti-Islamic literature, which warned that further action would be taken against Muslims in the area.

"We have received quite a few of these types of racist letters in the past but never anything so serious," said Mr Tariq.

"It was really vicious and talked of taking revenge on Muslims for the Madrid bombings.

"The writer said Muslims would be killed in retaliation and that the blood of Muslim children would be spilled like innocent blood was spilled in Spain.

"It went on to say that Muslims in Tipton were in the firing line because of the so-called Tipton Taliban and their alleged links to al Qaida."

The Wellington Road mosque has been at the centre of controversy after it emerged those former Guantanamo Bay detainees Shafiq Rasul, Asif Iqbal and Ruhal Ahmed all worshipped there.